The Government has received several suggestions/ comments/observations on the Working Draft from individuals and investors' associations proposing setting up of an Investors Protection Fund and other measures relating to investors' interests. These suggestions have been taken into account while finalising the provisions of draft Companies Bill, 1997. The Companies Bill 1997 is likely to be introduced in the current Session of Parliament.

**Handicraft Design Centres**

652. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of handicrafts design centres operating in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the number of such centres is less than required;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme to set up more such centres; and

(d) if so, the places where these centres are proposed to be set up and the estimated amount to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (d) No handicrafts design centre is operating in the state of Uttar Pradesh and there is no proposal to set up any such centre in near future in the State as the existing Regional Design & Technical Development Centre at Okhla, New Delhi, is catering to the needs of artisans for design development in Northern Region including the State of Uttar Pradesh.

**Development of Jute Industry**

653. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Jute the obscure rises from the ashes" appearing in the "Business Standard", New Delhi dated June 19, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the manner in which the Government are monitoring the UNDP aided programme to revitalise the ailing industry by developing existing new uses for jute?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Govt. of India have launched a National Jute Programme with an assistance of US$ 23 million from UNDP and equal matching contribution from the Govt. The primary objective of the Programme is to facilitate diversification in the jute sector and to strengthen R&D capacity through development of indigenous machinery and provide infrastructural support for transfer of technology, market promotion and enhancement of exports.

(c) An Inter-Ministerial Group constituting the Programme Management Board supervises the implementation of the UNDP Jute Programme. The Group is headed by Secretary (Textiles) with representatives from Ministry of Finance, Agriculture and Planning Commission. In addition, a Steering Committee is responsible for coordinating and overseeing the implementation of the Programme.

**Import of Newsprint Through STC**

654. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to import newsprint through State Trading Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) The Government do not propose to import newsprint through State Trading Corporation. In accordance with the existing provisions of the current IMPEX Policy, import of newsprint is permissible subject to "Actual User" condition to those who hold Registration Certificate issued by the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI).

**Textiles Mills**

655. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cotton, polyester, synthetic and woollen mills at present in Rajasthan and Gujarat alongwith the locations thereof; and the quantum of cloth manufactured by them during the last three years; and

(b) the efforts being made by the Government for revival of the textiles mills of these States have been closed down?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) A Statement is attached.

(b) Government has set up the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to enquire into the working of sick industrial companies and to prepare and sanction, as appropriate, schemes for their revival.

**Statement**

There is no restriction on using any type of fibre/yarn in manufacturing of cloth. Mills are using different types of yarn.

The number of cotton/mam-made fibre composite textile mills, weaving units and woollen units in the State of Rajasthan and Gujarat as on 31/3/97 is given below: